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## **CUZ'S** CORNER Strawberry Juice Caper Bagley

Jake's folks, the Scotts of while at three different places. Brewton, Alabama operated a Good thing none of us had dairy and back then there were telephones back then.

no electric milkers. The whole deal was a by hand affair and many a time I'd get to Jake's and he would be holding the bag, so to speak. Occasionally he would be tied up in such a way that he just couldn't turn loose. Most of the time, though, we couldn't persuade his Mama to let him go some place or other, well, he would just have to slip off.

And there is just no telling how many lickings Jake got for suddenly going A.W.O.L. We would usually discuss this subject, too, and he had some

His idea was that, if at all possible, especially if he managed to get Claudis and thought he'd be liable to get a thrashing, he would manage to get back before his papa came home. You know, so his mama rairing to go. could give him the whipping. He

said his mama didn't give much of a licking, but if his papa was home, and tended to him, that as a little different.

It was just about the same way at my house. Every once in a while, though, Mama would cross me up. If the offense was serious enough she would announce that she had better wait and let Papa take care of around and around. And whoever emptied the it. This meant real trouble.

But this one time, even though it was a major crime, it up again. But that was no Jake didn't, well, none of us got

any hickory broth. of juice. School was out at one that day and Mama had to take Virginia to the eye doctor. That meant that she had Evelyn with her and I would be home alone for a couple of hours or so. However, she very sternly admonished that when she got back she had better find me in the garden with the hoe in my hands. I sure meant to, and did, ole strawberry juice. Claudis

do just exactly like she said. Before we left school me and Jake talked the situation

Capps and Claudis Beasley. We decided that the thing to do would be for me to go in at each of their houses and ask if they could go home with me to ask my mama if I could come back to their house and play a while

said it sure made him kindly swimmy headed. By this time wasn't even sure which way

I had the most trouble with Jake's mama. She said he had a lot of work to do. Then, too, he had three little brothers, Ed Neal, Aubrey, and Junior. So, you see we had a real problem there. We had to talk her into it, then we had to figure some way to get away without these little fellows. Finally, though, Mrs. Scott said she guessed it would be all right if we weren't gonna

be gone more than just a few minutes. We promised her. We said we would run all the way to my house and back. Everett was already there

pretty good logic on the matter. and waiting on us. Then Jake got loose, and eventually we then we really did run the rest of the way, and the four of us wound up at my house, all

You see, Papa had several churns full of strawberry juice in the smoke house and I had just located it. He had added a little sugar to it, and Man, that

stuff tasted pretty good. It was nice and cool - real cool, and very flavorful. I got our big gourd dipper and there was mighty little formality at our party. We just passed the dipper

zipper, I mean dipper, had to fill problem. Papa had lots and lots

It wasn't but a little bit before Jake said he believed he could see two of each one of us. And after another ripper, I mean dipper, or two, the ole smokehouse had an extra door. But when I tried to go through one of em I banged into the wall. Everett said there must be mething to matter with that

reckoned it was about the best juice he had bever tasted. Jake

over, then we lined up Everett

And would you believe it? Luck was with us. In no time a tall three mamas had given three boys permission to go home with me to see if I could come back and play a little

Everything got sorta hazy. I do remember having a good bit of trouble standing up, and the ground was a lot harder to walk on than I could ever remem

it bein Tell you the truth, I didn't remember when my buddle left. I didn't remember when Mama got home or hardly anything.

Next day, though, Mami told me she had found me aslee in the garden, between the cor rows, and with the hoe in my hand! And she said quite a few other things, too, mostly about my having disgraced the whole family.

Jake's mama thought he was just sick. Told him that he must be billious and that if he had any more spells like that she would have to give him a spring tonic.

Claudis didn't have to get in any stovewood that night and Everett said he didn't have to do anything either. Jake said he justdid remember getting home and that was all.

Sometime before the party broke up Jake wondered what kinda butter you'd get if the juice in those churns were churned. Claudis told him that the stuff would have to clabber before it could be churned. Everett said he believed that it had already clabbered. I suggested that we have another dipperful and then run around the house three or four times to churn the stuff. Then one of em said that if they could stand up maybe they oughta go home before it got any worse. And I guess it must have been soon

after that they left. Not a single one of us got a licking for this, but I'll tell you one thing, I came amighty darn close



